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ON THE ADULT MALE PLUMAGE OF WILSON'S PHALAROPE.  
(*Steganopus Wilsoni* Sab.)

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By S. W. Williston, New Haven, Conn.

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From careful observations the present season in Southern Wyoming, I became well satisfied that what has been hitherto considered the young plumage of this bird, has been confounded with the adult male. The birds first made their appearance in the vicinity of Lake Como, May 5th, and afterwards became somewhat abundant, breeding in the marshy lands during June. A perfectly formed egg was taken from the oviduct of a female, June 8, although search for the nests was unsuccessful. The plumage here given is based upon the uniform result of seventeen dissections, in which the female plumage was invariably as given in Dr. Coues' excellent Key to North American Birds.

*Steganopus Wilsoni* male. Crown dark, nearly the color of the lesser wing coverts, somewhat ashy on the occiput and nape. Forehead lighter. The stripe running from bill, back through the eyes, so characteristic of the female, is faint, and nearly the color of the forehead. The cinnamon stripe on either side of the neck, is faintly marked and speckled with ashy; breast and fore part of the neck more purely white than in the female. The interscapulars, and many of the scapulars black edged with tawny. Upper tail coverts brown, bordered with white; otherwise as in the female.

The absence of black, and the deep rich cinnamon upon the neck and scapulars, together with dark markings of the crown and back, render the plumage strikingly different from the female, and I could hardly believe, till after repeated dissections, that this soberly marked bird was the adult mate of the so richly colored female. The birds are so confiding in their habits, that after I had shot nearly a score, I forebore their further destruction, but watched them as they circled in graceful flight about me, or swam so lightly in the water. I invariably distinguished the different plumage of the pairs.

That they should have shown without exception, when at last a year old, the adult plumage in the female, and the young plumage in the male, seems wholly improbable, and I doubt not that future observation will confirm my discovery.

No words can convey the beautiful and graceful forms of these birds, as they swim so lightly about upon the water. They prefer the small marshy ponds, and never venture upon rough water. The nearly related *Lobipes hyperboreus*, on the other hand, delight in deep water, rising and falling upon the high waves, far beyond the reach of fire-arms.

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SPERMOPHILUS RICHARDSONII.

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By S. W. Williston.

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I watched with considerable interest, the present season, the habits of this spermophile on the Laramie plains, where they exist in great numbers. They were seen very early in the spring, feeding upon the first green things